

## Press release

# Pension fund ABP will build nature inclusive wind park in the North Sea with Noordzeker

Amsterdam, June 11 2024

Noordzeker, an initiative of pension fund ABP, in cooperation with asset manager APG, and developer SSE Renewables, has been selected to build a new wind farm in the North Sea with a capacity of about 2 GW, enough to green 8% of current Dutch electricity demand. The wind farm will be built 62 kilometers off the Dutch coast near IJmuiden. The award for the new wind farm concerns the IJmuiden Ver Alpha tender. This tender focuses on the ecology of the park to be built. Noordzeker aims to provide large-scale renewable energy at an attractive price, with a minimal ecological footprint and a positive impact on biodiversity.

To achieve these objectives, Noordzeker will work closely with Naturalis Biodiversity Center both during the construction and operational phases of the wind farm. Together with Naturalis, research and monitoring will be conducted at the wind farm to determine how wind farms can best help combat climate change and contribute to biodiversity in the North Sea. Noordzeker will also introduce a range of other measures, such as artificial reefs, shutting down wind turbines during periods of high bird activity, and removing marine litter. In this latter program, autonomous vessels will collect litter to clean the habitat of seabirds and other marine life.

*“With Noordzeker, we have the ambition to operate a large wind farm in the North Sea. Together with Naturalis, we want to raise the ecological bar for the development, construction, and management of wind parks in the North Sea”, says Harmen van Wijnen, Chair of ABP. “This will ensure a good financial return for our pension participants and affordable, clean energy for the Netherlands, for the benefit of people and planet. We look forward to taking the next steps.”*

More details on innovations and research programmes will be announced at a later stage.

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-Harmen van Wijnen, Chair ABP

"We are grateful for the confidence expressed by RVO. This is a big step for the Dutch energy transition and biodiversity in the North Sea. By investing directly in energy generation from renewable sources, we contribute to the pensions of millions of people in the Netherlands and to a liveable world, also for our children and grandchildren."

-Jan-Willem Ruisbroek, Head of Global Infrastructure Investment Strategy APG

"We look forward to working with the Dutch authorities, industry, civil society organisations, and other stakeholders to jointly secure energy supplies for the Netherlands in these turbulent times. In doing so, it is of immeasurable importance that we strengthen nature. The ecological measures we take will contribute to new knowledge on which mitigating and enhancing measures work best."

- Jasper Vis, Country Manager SSE Renewables Netherlands

"All life is interconnected. To maintain this balance, Naturalis researches biodiversity. There is still much that is unknown about life in and above the sea. It is crucial to monitor biodiversity in new, innovative ways. This includes the North Sea. Noordzeker is set to make a significant step in this direction. We look forward to collaborating at the IJmuiden Ver wind farm."

Maaïke van de Kamp – Romijn, Deputy General Director Naturalis

## Notes to Editors

### About Noordzeker

Noordzeker is a coalition from and for the Netherlands, initiated by ABP, the largest Dutch pension fund, APG and SSE Renewables. Noordzeker takes the view that sustainable energy is a shared responsibility of and for all. The Noordzeker investment will provide more sustainable energy for the Netherlands of tomorrow, reduce dependency on fossil fuels, and will help build a greener future for Dutch society. Together with Naturalis, Noordzeker will be working on enhancing biodiversity at sea.

### About ABP

For 100 years, ABP has been the pension fund for people working in government and education. One in six people in the Netherlands now or in the future receive a pension from ABP. ABP has €498 billion in assets (April 2024). ABP aims to achieve €30 billion in investments by 2030 that deliver double returns: financial and on societal themes such as climate and biodiversity.

### About APG

APG is one of the world's largest pension investors of, among others, ABP. Responsible investing is of great importance to APG and its pension fund clients. APG aims to ensure that pension funds can provide their participants with a good pension and contribute to a livable, sustainable world. For current and future generations.

### About SSE Renewables

SSE Renewables is a leading developer and operator of renewable energy generation, headquartered in the UK and Ireland, with a growing presence internationally.

Part of the SSE Plc Group, SSE Renewables has an operational portfolio of around 4GW of offshore wind, onshore wind and hydro generation, with a project pipeline of over 15GW in development.

### About Naturalis

With a team of more than 120 researchers, Naturalis Biodiversity Center is the Netherlands' leading national research institute in the field of biodiversity.

### More information

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